Message Text

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TAGS:OVIP, PEBR, NI

SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA ADDRESSES NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION (NNPA), JUNE 23

- 1. GARBA ADDRESSED AWARDS DINNER OF ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NNPA (COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME 200 BLACK NEWSPAPERS) IN CLEVELAND ON FRIDAY EVENING. SPEECH EMPHASIZED STRONG APPEAL FOR CONTINUING EFFORTS "TO FORGE CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF NIGERIA AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN AMERICA" AND FOR GREATER ATTENTION BY BLACK AMERICANS TO "INFLUENCING NOT ONLY THE AFRICAN POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES' GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO, THE ATTITUDES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE AFRICAN CONTINENT."
- 2. GARBA REJECTED ALL ATTEMPTS BY EAST OR WEST "TO INTERFERE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS OR TO PRESCRIBE NEW-FANGLED OR COLD WAR SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICAN PROBLEMS." HE NOTED THE "RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARKABLE WARMTH IN OUR RELATIONSHIP...BASED ON THE CHANGING ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO AFRICA AND AFRICAN PROBLEMS." WHILE MENTIONING "AMERICA'S RECENT PRE-OCCUPATION WITH RECENT RUSSIAN AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA," HE AVOIDED ANY DIRECT CONDEMNATION OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE. SPEECH WASUPBEAT, HIGHLIGHTING NIGERIA'S

SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM AND FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND ITS EFFORTS TO RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE AND DEVELOP ECONOMICALLY.

3. GARBA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY BRONSEN DEDE, DEPUTY PERM REP TO UN (AND SOON TO BE AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA) GEORGE, AND PATRICK COLE AND TUNJI OSENI OF THE DAILY TIMES.

COLE ADDRESSED AFTERNOON SESSION OF CONVENTION. COLE SAID THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND AFRICA HAVE NEVER BEEN AS GOOD AS THEY PRESENTLY ARE," BUT WARNED THAT "THERE IS AT THE MOMENT A QUITE DISTURBING CHANCE THAT THESE RELATIONS COULD DEGENERATE INTO ANIMOSITY UNLESS GOOD CARE IS TAKEN." SPEECH WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF WESTERN INTERVENTION IN SHABA WHILE PRAISING THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA AS "PERHAPS THE MOST HISTORIC AND CERTAINLY THE MOST WELCOME SORT OF INTERVENTION BY FOREIGN POWERS IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS."

4. COUNTRY OFFICER CHAVEAS ATTENDED EVENING SESSION. WE ARE POUCHING COPIES OF BOTH SPEECHES. VANCE

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